

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Delaware
COUNTY:	Kent County
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:	Aspendale
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Aspendale

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				on State Route 300, one mile west of Kenton					
CITY OR TOWN:			vicinity of Kenton			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		at large	
STATE		CODE		COUNTY:		CODE			
Delaware		10		Kent County		001			

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:				STATE: Delaware	
Mr. Donald van Lear Downs					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Aspendale					
CITY OR TOWN:		vicinity of Kenton		STATE: Delaware	CODE 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:				COUNTY: Kent County	
Recorder of Deeds, Kent County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
The Green					
CITY OR TOWN:		Dover		STATE: Delaware	CODE 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:				STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
Historic American Buildings Survey (5 photos, 1959, 3 data pages, 1960)					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1959, 1960					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Library of Congress/Annex				ENTRY NUMBER	
STREET AND NUMBER:				DATE	
Division of Prints and Photographs					
CITY OR TOWN:		Washington			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Aspendale is a two-story brick house with gable roof and two sets of twin end chimneys that are coupled by short curtain walls. The brickwork of the north and south facades is Flemish bond, that on the ends is stuccoed. Both the north and south facades are identical in design. The beltcourse at the second floor level is five bricks wide with the three center rows recessed. Two courses of molded brick cap the water table. As constructed in 1773, the ridge of the roof was originally slightly flattened to form a deck, which was covered with lead and the deck enclosed by a balustrade. During the Revolution, the lead roof was removed and melted down for bullets. The balustrade was also removed at that time and the roof shingled and rebuilt in its present gabled form.

The main house is 36 feet wide and 32 feet deep. A one-and-a-half story frame wing is adjoined on axis to the west end. This measures 20 feet by 17 feet and contains the kitchen and one room above. Following the Delaware style, the first floor windows have paneled shutters and those on the second story have louvered shutters. The center doors of the two facades have rectangular transoms and are approached by short flights of wooden steps. On the south front these replace a nineteenth-century veranda which was removed in the restoration by the present owner. A nineteenth-century cornice was also replaced by an exact copy of the original modillioned cornice on the north front.

During this same restoration, partitions which formed a narrow hall and two smaller rooms were removed to reveal the so called Quaker plan. This plan consists of one large room extending from front to back, in this case a parlor, and two rooms in the remaining space. At Aspendale these rooms are a study, and a large living hall. The center doors lead into the large parlor, occupying the entire east end of the house. This room has a narrow wooden cornice and chair rail and a completely paneled fireplace wall with cupboards at each side. The south cupboard had been removed when the room partitions were installed. A copy of the original northern one was made to replace this one which was later found in the tenant house in ruinous condition. A door in the center of the parlor's west wall leads into the other portion of the main house, into the hall, which also has a paneled fireplace wall, wooden cornice, and chair rail. In the study, the fireplace wall has paneled dado, chimney breast and cupboards in an earlier style than the date of the house.

One of the unusual features of the house is that the second floor paneling is more elaborate than the first floor. In the back sitting room and upstairs living hall there is a dentiled cornice while the main bedroom has a Greek fret design below the deep overhang of the cornice. Both bedrooms have balancing cupboards and all rooms have paneled dados. There are no mantels above any of the fireplaces except in the kitchen. The hardware of the house is original and includes brass boxlocks on the exterior doors.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1771-73**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1771-1773, Aspendale, Kenton, Delaware, is one of the few houses in Delaware, and probably in the original Colonies, that has never passed from the ownership of the family of the original builders and has been continuously lived in by them. It exists today as a virtually unaltered example of a moderately sized brick farmhouse, conservatively yet finely designed in the early Georgian style. Aspendale also illustrates the long-lived persistence of the early Georgian tradition in rural areas. It is one of the few houses which clearly demonstrates the so called Quaker plan; a single large room extending from front to back and comprising two-thirds of the length of the house, the remaining area being divided into two approximately square rooms with corner fireplaces using a single chimney. The main house is adjoined at the west end by an older one-and-a-half story frame service wing. The various dependencies, farm buildings, old lanes and divisions between the fields have been little changed, with the exception of renewals and additions about the barn. As a result, the place is a living example of a small plantation of the last quarter of the 18th century.

HISTORY

Aspendale stands on a tract at the headwaters of the southwest branch of Duck Creek, deeded in 1770 to Charles Numbers. The house was begun in 1771 and completed in 1773. Charles Numbers was the great-great grandfather of the present owner and the house has been continuously lived in by the family since its completion. The one story and attic frame wing at the west end was already standing when the main house was built. David Owen Downs, who married the granddaughter of Charles Numbers, planted the many aspen trees which gave the house its name. When the present owner inherited the property in 1950, the only minor exterior restoration needed was the removal of a veranda on the south front and the replacement of a nineteenth-century cornice by an exact copy of the original Georgian cornice on the north front. Some interior partitions were also removed. The land is still farmed, maintaining completely the integrity of the entire property.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein, Harold D., and Hubbard, Cortlandt V.D., Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Wilmington, Del., 1963, p. 99-101.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	UTM° 18.440010° 48' 41.510"	' "		' "	' "	
NE	° 18.440800° 48' 42.210"	' "		' "	' "	
SE	° 18.441540° 48' 41.390"	' "		' "	' "	
SW	° 18.440870° 48' 40.470"	' "		' "	' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 210

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmarks Review Project; original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1967

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 8/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name _____

Title _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Landmark

Designated: Apr 18, 1970
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified: June 23, 75

ATTEST: _____
Arch. Surveys date

Boundary Affirmed: _____
Keeper of The National Register date
Director, OAMP date

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

Aspendale

The upstairs floor has never been painted or waxed and the original lime wash is still found in the northwest bedroom. The paint on the rest of the walls is the same color as the original lime wash. Most of the interior woodwork also still carries the original one coat of paint put on in 1773. Only a small portion of the window glass has needed replacement so the interior is in a remarkable state of preservation.

The few small changes needed to make Aspendale usable for modern living have in no way altered the essential integrity of the house. Still a working farm today, the environmental integrity has also been well maintained.

Boundaries

Since Aspendale is virtually intact, it should be preserved as such. The boundary has therefore been drawn to include much of the surrounding farmland and forest to secure the natural environment for the property. Beginning at the point where the creek crosses Route 300, about 1000 feet west of the junction with Route 11, the line proceeds north along the creek, passed two tributies branching to the northeast as it continues to curve to the west, about 4500 feet becoming the property line of the owner where it emerges from a wooded area, then in a southwesterly direction along the property line of the owner to the edge of the wood, then southeast along the wood, as shown in U.S.G.S. 7.5', Kenton Quadrangle, 1955, continuing in a straight line from its end, along the property line of the owner across Route 300 until it intersects a dirt road, then in a straight line going in an easterly direction to Route 11, then northeast on Route 11 to the creek, then following the creek north to the point of beginning at Route 300, an area of approximately 210 acres, including the old brick hole, now a pond, where clay for the brick used in the house was obtained, as illustrated on the U.S.G.S. map.

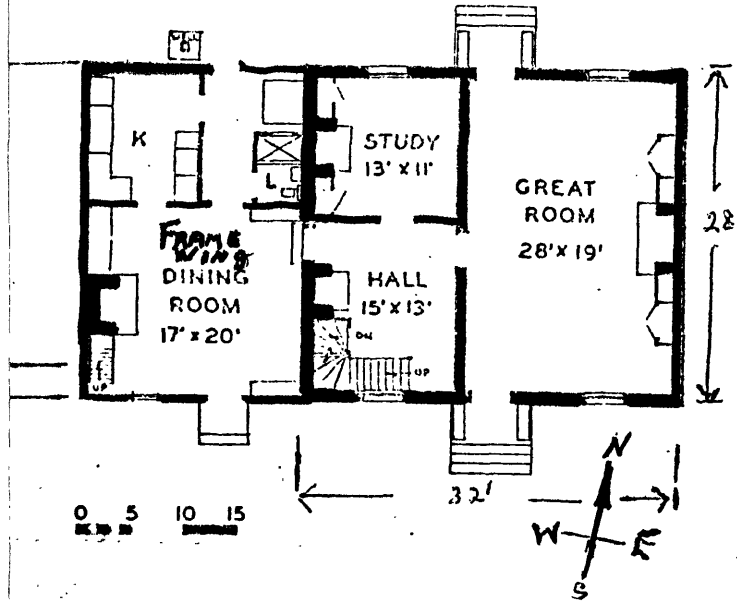
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(Number all entries) 7. Description



First floor plan of Aspendale, from Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V.D. Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, p. 101

